



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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What is claimed is:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing secure electronic commerce transactions with multiple merchants comprising:

- establishing a secure communication link between at least one client computer system and a vendor computer system; and
- transmitting transaction information between said client computer system and said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to select and purchase, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a merchant computer system by a plurality of merchants;
- modifying responses from said merchant computer system to said client computer system at said vendor computer system to route at least a portion of an information exchange through said vendor computer system.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step further comprises:

- generating a purchase order for said items after said user's selection of at least one of said items for purchase from said merchant computer system via said vendor computer system.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

obtaining payment from said user; and
transmitting payment to at least one of said plurality of merchants on
behalf of said user.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said payment is
obtained by an operator of said vendor computer system.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
transmitting transaction information further comprises:

displaying one or more icons corresponding to said plurality of merchants
at said client computer for user selection; and

providing said items listed in said merchant computer system to said user
at said client system computer via said vendor computer system, upon said user
selection of at least one of said one or more icons.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for performing secure electronic
commerce with multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor computer system; and

transmitting transaction information between said client computer system and said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to obtain, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant computer systems by one or more merchants;

monitoring an information exchange between said client computer and said plurality of merchant computer systems at said vendor computer system to obtain said transaction information; and

modifying responses from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said client computer system at said vendor computer system to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said vendor computer system.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
generating a purchase order for said items.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein a vendor of said vendor computer system forwards payments to said one or more merchants for the supplied items on behalf of said user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said user makes payment to said vendor for said supplied items.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
displaying a merchant icon associated with at least one of said one or more merchants at said client computer system for selection by said user; and
upon said selection by said user of said merchant icon, providing a merchant list of items from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said user at said client computer system via said vendor computer system.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of modifying responses occurs automatically.

16. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of modifying responses occurs automatically.

pur c17 17. (New) A vendor computer system having computer readable program code embodied therein for implementing a vendor server to enable secure electronic commerce between a user at a client computer system and one or more merchant servers, said program code configured to perform at least the steps of:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor server;

obtaining merchant content from a merchant server;

B1 modifying links in said merchant content to redirect said links to said vendor server; and

transmitting said merchant content and modified links to said client computer system for presentation to said user.

18. (New) The vendor computer system of claim 17, wherein said step of obtaining said merchant content comprises:

receiving a user request from said client computer system;

transmitting said user request to said merchant server; and

receiving from said merchant server a response comprising said merchant

content.

19. (New) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said step of receiving said user request comprises identifying said merchant server from a plurality of possible merchant servers.

20. (New) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said user request is an order request, and said step of transmitting said user request to said merchant server comprises inserting user order information into said order request.

B1 21. (New) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said user request is one of:

- a search request;
- an order request; and
- a selection request.

22. (New) A vendor server comprising:
a browser agent configured to interface with a user browser over a secure link;
a server agent configured to interface with a plurality of merchant servers, said server agent further configured to:

- receive a request from said browser agent;
- transmit said request to a selected merchant server; and

receive a response from said selected merchant server, said
response comprising merchant content;
a process engine configured to receive said merchant content from said
server agent, said process engine further configured to:
modify links in said merchant content to redirect said links to said
vendor server; and
reframe said merchant content with modified links and provide
said reframed merchant content to said browser agent for transmission to
said user browser.

23. (New) The vendor server of claim 22, wherein said process engine
comprises:

a hyper-text parser configured to parse said merchant content into one or
more structural elements; and
a hyper-text processor configured to modify hyperlinks and forms in said
structural elements, and reframe said structural elements as modified.

24. (New) The vendor server of claim 22, further comprising a merchant
database accessible by said process engine, said merchant database comprising
merchant-specific information for processing responses from said plurality of
merchant servers.

25. (New) The vendor server of claim 22, further comprising a member database accessible by said process engine, said member database comprising user-specific information.

26. (New) A method for providing secure electronic commerce transactions between a client computer and one or more merchant servers via a vendor server, wherein said vendor server performs a plurality of steps comprising:

121
providing a secure link between a client computer and a vendor server;
in response to a user request received from said client computer, obtaining merchant content from a specified merchant server;
modifying said merchant content to redirect one or more hyper-text elements to said vendor server;
reframing said merchant content as a web page of said vendor server; and
transmitting said web page to said client computer.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising maintaining a member database comprising credit and address information of one or more users.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising maintaining a merchant database comprising merchant-specific information of said plurality of merchant servers.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein:
said user request comprises a request for merchant inventory information;
and
said merchant content comprises a list of merchant items from said specified merchant server.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein:
said user request comprises a request for merchant inventory information;
and
said merchant content comprises a list of merchant services from said specified merchant server.

31. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein:
said user request comprises a search request; and
said merchant content comprises a list of merchant items responsive to said search request.

32. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein:

said user request comprises a search request; and
said merchant content comprises a list of merchant services responsive to
said search request.

33. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a
vendor web page to said user computer wherein said vendor web page
comprises one or more items offered by said vendor independent of said one or
more merchants.

34. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a
vendor web page to said user computer wherein said vendor web page
comprises one or more services offered by said vendor independent of said one
or more merchants.

35. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said user request is an order
request, said method further comprising:

framing said order request; and
obtaining member and merchant information from a vendor database to
complete said order request.

36. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
receiving a single payment from a user;

providing individual payments to each of a plurality of merchant servers from which at least one item was ordered by said user.

37. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein modifying said merchant content comprises at least one of the following steps:

- redirecting hyperlinks to said vendor server;
- redirecting forms to said vendor server; and
- redirecting post and get commands through said vendor server.

38. (New) A vendor server process executed in a vendor server computer system, comprising:

- means for establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor server;
 - means for obtaining merchant content from a merchant server;
 - means for modifying links in said merchant content to redirect said links to said vendor server; and
 - means for transmitting said merchant content and modified links to said client computer system for presentation to a user.
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